

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 19, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. No claims have been amended in this response. Thus, claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-10 are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilcox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,066, hereinafter "Wilcox"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a power supply apparatus comprising a circuit that produces from an input voltage, an output voltage within a predetermined permissible variation range; and a circuit that, as an output current increases, decreases a target level of the output voltage within the permissible variation range.

Applicants submit that Wilcox does not teach or suggest all the elements set forth in claim 1. Specifically, Wilcox fails to disclose or suggest at least a "circuit that, as an output current increases, decreases a target level of the output voltage within the permissible variation range."

In contrast, Wilcox merely discloses a voltage regulator, in which a control circuit 35 monitors the output voltage V_{OUT} through a resistor-divider network R_1/R_2 (36A/36B),

which provides a feedback voltage V_{FB} , proportional to the output voltage V_{OUT} . The circuit operates by controlling the current I_L through inductor L1 so that the feedback voltage V_{FB} is regulated to be substantially equal to a reference voltage V_{REF} . With feedback voltage V_{FB} being regulated, the output voltage V_{OUT} is in turn regulated to a higher voltage by the ratio of $R_1 + R_2 / R_2$. (see Wilcox, col. 4, lines 22-34).

Nowhere does Wilcox disclose or suggest at least the feature of decreasing a target level of the output voltage as an output current increases, as set forth in claim 1. Further, Wilcox fails to suggest any way of modifying the reference to teach all the features of claim 1, or to motivate someone skilled in the art to conceive the invention recited in claim 1.

The invention set forth in claim 1 further provides several advantages over the cited prior art. For example, it is possible to improve the transient characteristic against an abrupt variation in the output current, and simultaneously reduce the power consumed when the output current increases.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each feature of a rejected claim must be taught, i.e., identically described therein. As explained above, Wilcox fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated, or rendered obvious in view of, Wilcox. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 should be deemed allowable.

Conclusion

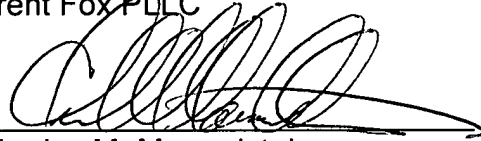
Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is

desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, an appropriate extension of time is requested. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 103213-00079.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Marmelstein', written over a horizontal line.

Charles M. Marmelstein
Attorney for Applicants
Registration Number 25,895

Customer Number 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: 202-857-6000
Fax: 202-638-4810

CMM/SCO:vmh